

Thursday, June 2, 2005

Local businesses band together for Cheney Artwalk on June 10 Exhibit to feature all local talent as well as tying in with Cheney Farmers' Market

By John McCallum
Editor

It's probably only fitting that Cheney's first art gallery should be behind another first - an art walk.

Art20 Gallery and five other downtown businesses are holding the first Cheney Art Walk on Friday, June 10, from 1-7 p.m. Cheney-area sculptor Richard Warrington will be the featured artist, but the Walk will also include exhibits from the Cheney High School art classes' senior thesis as well as a variety of pieces from other local artists.

The idea for the art walk is partly Art20 owner Sharon Pryor's, and part Warrington's. Pryor said Warrington - who's freestanding and wall pieces are on display at galleries around the country - wanted to do a show for Cheney.

Pryor has seen art walks done in other cities, and thought that doing one with Warrington in conjunction with the Cheney Farmer's Market - which is open from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays throughout the summer - would work well here.

Warrington describes himself on his website as an "impressionistic sculptor" who works mainly in powder-coated aluminum to design two- and three-dimensional hollow-form and silhouette pieces. His works will be on display at Art20 from June 1-30. Also on display at Art20 as part of the Art Walk will be works from CHS art teacher Melvie Strampe's senior art class. Entitled "Arte Monumentale" the exhibit will run from June 1-15 - a first for Strampe's students.

"We've done it (senior thesis) for about 18 years, but never at a gallery, so this is new for us," Strampe said. "To be able to exhibit at a gallery is like - wow! Nine 2005 CHS seniors will have at least one piece at Art20: Anthony Campitelli, Jennifer Shanahan, Gerald Berthelmes, Chris Pineo, Jenna Sweet, Jessica Gonzalez, Sarah Dexter, Chris Perry and Matt Day.

It's an eclectic group, Strampe said, ranging from the pottery of Campitelli, through the bold oil paintings of Perry, the more traditional painting style of Sweet, and the photography of Dexter. But Art20 won't be the only downtown business displaying art, it is after all an art walk. Paintings by Judy McKeenan will be on display at Washington Mutual Bank; while across the street, Sweet Savoy will host the works of Mark Bogle. The computer-generated art of Rich Baker can be seen at Tree of Knowledge, with Imperial Styling displaying the woodworking of Lowell Simonson - an artist Pryor said turns out bowls and vases looking more like ceramics than wood. Kafka Coffee on Second Street will complete the art circuit - or start it, depending on one's preference by hosting the photography of Mike Ault and artwork of Richard Craven. An opening ceremony will take place outside Owl Pharmacy, Pryor said, with Owl donating balloons to mark each business that will be hosting art. An artist's reception will take place from 4-7 p.m. at Art20 at 113 F Street, and Pryor added that some members of the

Cheney theater group StageWest would be doing readings during the event. Art walks have proven to be very popular in other cities, Pryor said, and usually always achieve success through the support of businesses and other civic groups. Besides the five Cheney establishments, she added that Pathways to Progress and the West Plains Chamber of Commerce have been heavily involved in the Walk as well. If it works, Pryor said they would do it again. "We're hoping to make this an annual event," she said. "If we all should survive for another year, we'll do it."

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ARTE MONUMENTALE
Senior Thesis 2005

Exhibiting Artists

- Anthony Campitelli
- Jennifer Shanahan
- Gerald Berthelmes
- Chris Pineo
- Jenna Sweet
- Jessica Gonzalez
- Sarah Dexter
- Chris Perry
- Matt Day

Opening June 10 from 4 to 7 pm
through June 15th at
& Studio

Nine CHS senior art students will have works on display at Art20 for the Artwalk.

